

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office

February 19, 1999 LB 226

other...some of my colleagues might have some questions regarding this, but a couple of questions that has come up: you know, why are doctors not reviewing effective pain management as a part of treatment? There was an article in the Omaha World-Herald on February 14th, 1999, by the headline: "Pay Pain More Heed, Experts Say", and Amy Haddad, a clinical ethicist at Creighton's University Center for Health and (sic) Policy and Ethics, states that, quote, unrealistic fears among doctors and nurses about properly managing pain are the biggest barriers to giving patients in severe pain the relief they need, and that's what we're trying to do here. We're trying to low...to eliminate the unrealistic barriers that exist. There should be no one who is in chronic pain, in severe pain in the state of Nebraska that is in the situation and untreated because a healthcare professional, a doctor, is afraid of not going by the recommended dosage, of...afraid of perhaps it becoming...the patient becoming addicted. If this person is in chronic, severe pain, if they're terminal, they ought to be able to get the pain medication they need. And I will stop right there and the senator...Senator Jensen can talk about the committee amendments. There is an amendment coming from Senator Byars filed. I cosigned the amendment that I'm in agreement of and will progress this along, and if anyone has any questions, don't...feel free to ask them because I really do think we need this and I feel very, very strongly about this bill. Thank you very much.

**SPEAKER KRISTENSEN:** The Chair of the Health Committee's recognized for the committee amendments. Senator Jensen. (Standing Committee amendment AM0365 is found on page 593 of the Legislative Journal.)

**SENATOR JENSEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body. Senator Hilgert was talking more about the committee amendments than he was the original bill and the committee amendments do become a redraft of the original bill. This is after consulting with Senator Hilgert, Health and Human Services Regulation and Licensure, and the Nebraska Medical Association, and others that have come into this picture. The three sections, the legislative findings is in Section 1, similar to those contained in the original green copy of the bill. Section 2 exempts physicians from discipline or criminal penalties who administer